

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00201 102049Z

60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /100 W
----- 067218

R 101951Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1907

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0201

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: MININT MEETING WITH VPE PRIOR TO EXILE

REF: A./LA PAZ 158; B./LA PAZ 110

1. THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE U.S. MILITARY GROUP IN LA PAZ WE HAVE RECEIVED AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE MEETING ON JANUARY 8 BETWEEN VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. PRESENT AT THE MEETING BESIDES THESE TWO, WERE PAZ' PRIVATE SECRETARY (OLMEDO), AND THE COMMANDERS AND THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE ARMED SERVICES. SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS CAPTAIN BARROSO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NAVY.

2. SHORTLY AFTER DR. PAZ AND HIS AIDE ARRIVED AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MENTIONED ABOVE WERE ASKED TO ATTEND THE MEETING. WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THE MEETING HAD ALREADY BEEN IN PROGRESS PERHAPS 10 TO 15 MINUTES. THE MINISTER THEN ACCUSED DR. PAZ AND HIS AIDE OF ENGAGING IN DIVISIVE AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES (ALONG THE LINES OF THE ACCUSATIONS LISTED IN REFTEL A), SHOWING AS PROOF TWO LETTERS ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY PAZ TO SILES ZUAZO, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00201 102049Z

MEMBER OF THE MNRI IN EXILE, AND SOMEHOW INTERCEPTED BY THE

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THE LATTER EXPLAINED THAT, IN VIEW OF SUCH INVOLVEMENTS, DR. PAZ AND CERTAIN OTHERS IN THE MNR WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY; THAT THEY COULD NOT LET PAZ RETURN TO HIS HOME TO PACK, ETC., BECAUSE THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT HE MIGHT BE HARMED AND THE GOB DID NOT WISH TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY SUCH CALAMITY. THE MINISTER SAID PAZ' CLOTHES AND MEDICINES WOULD BE PICKED UP FOR HIM AND HE WOULD BE ESCORTED DIRECTLY TO THE AIRPORT. HE WAS GIVEN A CHOICE OF BEING TAKEN TO PERU OR PARAGUAY AND HE CHOSE THE LATTER. HE WAS ALSO GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE CHARGES, WHEREUPON HE ACCUSED MNR SUB-CHIEF CIRO HUMBOLDT AND MINISTER CASTRO OF DRUMMING UP FALSE CHARGES AGAINST HIM,

ALLEGEDLY CALLING THEM "PICAROS" (KNAVES OR SCOUNDRELS). SOURCE COMMENTED THAT DECISION TO EXILE DR. PAZ HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE MEETING BEGAN AND THAT THIS HEARING WAS MERELY PRO FORMA. SOURCE HAD NO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEETING OR THAT HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE REQUESTED.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIVES PAZ WAS GIVEN AN ULTIMATUM OF SORTS AT THE MEETING BEFORE THE SPECTATORS WERE ASKED TO COME. AS REPORTED REFTEL B, PAZ WAS ALREADY OF THE OPINION THAT HE WOULD BE MADE AN OFFER WHICH HE COULD NOT ACCEPT AND WOULD THEREFORE BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS THE INTENT OF THE GOB, AS THE AIRCRAFT AND ALL OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR PAZ' EXILE HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE THE INTERVIEW.
STEDMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAPAZ00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740151/aaaabwap.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A./LA PAZ 158; B./LA PAZ 110
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MININT MEETING WITH VPE PRIOR TO EXILE
TAGS: PINT, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005